

Article Authors



world. Outside of academia, Kieran enjoys playing, composing, and listening to music.

Kieran Black is a recent graduate of Cal State LA's M.A. program in History, completing the degree in December 2025. His work has appeared in multiple peer-reviewed journals including *Social Evolution and History* and the *Journal of Big History*, and he has contributed expert commentary to international research initiatives. His own research interests include historical theory and the application of the modern physical sciences to the ancient



of serving as President of Phi Alpha Theta - Eta Xi during his last year at Cal State LA. Finally, he would like to thank Professors Doran, Matin, Shutz, Endy, and Pflieger for their guidance, feedback, and patience.

Kareem Ali is completing his M.A. in History at Cal State LA in May 2026 and plans to pursue a PhD after completing additional language courses. His research interests include the Ancient World, Byzantine Empire, and Central Asia. In 2023-2024, he was awarded the Eugene Fingerhut Award for outstanding graduate student and, in 2024-2025, he served as one of the Editors-in-Chief for *Perspectives* Vol. 52. He also had the honor



Menno Verbaten is finishing his M.A. in History at Cal State LA. He received his B.A. in International Studies from the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht in the Netherlands. At Cal State LA, Menno's research focuses on the history of the Dutch Republic and its influence on Early America. Additionally, Menno serves as graduate assistant to Professor Dawn Dennis' "Race and Ethnicity in US History" course and teaches at the

Dutch School of SoCal in North Hollywood. He would like to express his gratitude to Professors Doran, Pflieger, Matin, Lee, and Ford for their guidance, encouragement, and inspiration during his time at Cal State LA.



Penelope Neder-Muro is an archivist at Caltech and a proud Cal State LA alum. Penny earned her B.A. and M.A. in History in 2009 and in December 2025. In between her history degrees, she earned an MLIS from the University of Denver. Penny has not ruled out working on a PhD in the future, but for now has travel plans with her spouse. She would like to thank the many historians she has met along the way who inspired her to continue her history

education. She would also like to thank Professors Endy, Ford, Pflieger, and Vergara for their influence and guidance with this article.



Hector Avina is a Los Angeles native and a senior undergraduate student pursuing a B.A. in History with a Teacher Preparation Option at Cal State LA. His research interests include sports history and American history, ranging from the colonial period to the modern era. He plans to pursue a teaching credential in social science and a M.A. in History in the near future. For now, Avina is seeking job opportunities to gain experience working

with students while continuing his academic journey. In his free time, Avina follows a wide range of sports, from wrestling to soccer.



Trenten Hart studied History and graduated from Cal State LA, with a B.A. in 2020 and an M.A. in December 2025. He served as an editor for *Perspectives* Vol. 51 and presented his work on Queer History in Ancient Greece for the Fourth Annual *Perspectives* Conference in 2025. While focusing on twentieth-century American history in general, he is always looking for broader Queer History connections in the past. He works as a

high school history teacher. In his spare time, Trenten enjoys horror and fantasy in various forms including books, comics, games, and TV. He plans to continue his studies and eventually become a professor.